

WEEK 6: UNFINISHED COMMITMENT

MESSAGE NOTES:



SMALL GROUPS GUIDE

TEACHING AND TESTIMONY VIDEO

Play Teaching and Testimony Video for Week 6. Share reflections from the video. Then, pray for this testimony before you begin the rest of the lesson. Watch the video at eastside.com/unfinished.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ① How would you define faith?
- ② Share one moment that stood out to you from Commitment weekend?

FURTHER DISCUSSION FROM SCRIPTURE

Read the following Scripture passage and discuss the questions as a group. You may want to have each group member journal their answer first in the provided space before discussing together, as a means of encouraging all to participate more deeply.

The lives of some people are long remembered, while those of others are quickly forgotten.

What makes the difference? Could be any one of a number of things. Hank Aaron left a legacy of power at the plate; Eleanor Roosevelt, of dogged determination to do what was right for people whose rights were violated; Yo-Yo Ma, of consummate skill and deep understanding of the cello; Anne Frank, of intense longing to pursue her profound gifting during the Holocaust; Albert Einstein, of reasoning beyond the apparently obvious; Mother Teresa, of seeing Jesus in the suffering of the poor and dying; Muhammad Ali, of style, quickness, and a desire to be the greatest; and Abraham Lincoln, of unshakable resolve to end slavery. Among these, there is no single winning formula. Nor is any one legacy equally agreeable to all. One person's legacy is another's nightmare. The same is true of music, with its many artists, styles, and preferences.

Hebrews 11:1, 8-16 (NIV)

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had the opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

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Abraham left a legacy of faithfulness, but it did not come quickly or easily. Faith never does. Growth is messy and comes in spurts. The same Christ-follower who professed Jesus as the Messiah was soon thereafter told, “Out of my sight, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me” (Matthew 16:23). The one who denied Jesus three times was later asked three times to profess his love for the Lord (John 21:15-17). This disciple who returned to fishing (John 21:3) after long ago leaving his nets (Matthew 4:20) stood up on the Day of Pentecost to proclaim to his audience, “You, with the help of wicked men, put him [Jesus] to death by nailing him to the cross” (Acts 2:23), knowing full well that the death Jesus had suffered might also await him there outside Jerusalem on account of his bold proclamation of the truth.

The list could go on. You get the idea. The question is not so much, “Do you want to be great?” No, the real question is, “Will you be faithful?” At a time when so many people are hurting and lost, how will your generosity create a legacy for them?

- 1 How is faith demonstrated in each of the three examples from Abraham’s life?

- 2 How has your life changed because of faith in God?

- ③ How did faith play a part in your decisions over Commitment weekend?

- ④ Who comes to mind when you think of someone who has been restored and has left a legacy?

- ⑤ What legacy will the decisions you make today leave our community better tomorrow?

- ⑥ As we end this portion of our Unfinished journey, what is one thing that impacted you during this study?

- ⑦ Close your time praying for one another as you take your next steps on the Unfinished journey.

NOTES

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